



CITY OF DANBURY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
19 NEW STREET
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Geoffrey R. Herald
Fire Chief

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FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of 21 April through 21 May and details activities of the Department.

This month I am especially pleased to report to the council on the recent actions of a division of our volunteers. The Volunteer Fire Police have a history of service to the city and department. They respond to fires, wires down or to other incidents where they are needed to control traffic and ensure citizen safety. For example, they were involved for three days during the anthrax incident in 2007 directing traffic around the affected area.

Early this month on 8 and 9 May Danbury experienced a serious windstorm. This storm resulted in a number of situations where wires and roadways were compromised. The Fire Police responded and attended several of these situations. Some assignments lasted for as long as 12 hours at a stretch. On others, crews went from one to another as CL&P crews arrived to repair the wires.

These assignments attended to by the Fire Police contribute directly to the safety and protection of our citizens. Their response also yields a financial savings to the city by reducing the need for regular police to be taken from patrol or other duties to deal with the traffic and safety concerns. As Chief, I wish to extend the thanks of the city for a job well done to these men and women.

I must also pass on another warning regarding smoke detectors lifespan. Maintaining a smoke alarm that is 10-years-old or older actually does more harm than good. After 10 years have passed, the alarm is no longer reliable. The United States Fire Administration (USFA) wants to remind people that part of maintaining a smoke alarm includes replacing the entire unit after 10 years. It doesn't seem that long ago, but it's a fact: *All* hardwired or battery-operated smoke alarms, **installed before May 2000**, should be replaced now!

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Pre-incident familiarizations were performed at Danbury Mall and anchors stores, 17A Cleveland St., West Street Childrens' Center and 41 E. Pembroke Rd., Comstock St., Tower place, terrace Pl., Martha Apts., 42 Keeler St. Nicos Pizza, Saw Mill Rd., 375 Main St., former Filenes Dept. Store, Westy's Storage, Stop and Shop, Lake Place, Danbury Hospital Warehouse

On 5/18/10 a tour of HQ's was given to 70 3rd graders from South St. School. On 5/4/10, E25 crew showed some grandparents and grandchildren the E25 station, demonstrated equipment and gave the grandchildren a short talk about fire safety and use of the 911 system

E25 Lt. Daly and his crew, FFs Guard and Monteavaro, gave a Fire Safety demonstration at King St. Nursery School for 15 four year olds.

Each year the department assists in the annual Clean Still River Day project. This requires an engine company to respond to the boat launch to the Still River behind the Marriott. This year Engine 24 crew assisted by Volunteer Engine 11 tanker cleaned 1 to 6 inches of winter accumulation of mud and debris from the ramp. This operation with tanker and hose work used approx. 1,250 gallons of water.

Donations

Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA)

The department has again received a very generous donation of \$25,000 from Dr. Robert Bedoukian of Bedoukian Research Inc. This is granted under the State NAA. This funding will be used to train members in trench technical rescue, a vital training necessity for our department.

The Fire Department has received the following donations. As Chief I thank these generous donors for their assistance in improving our training and capabilities. These donations will be used toward the construction of a roof ventilation prop at our fire training facility on Plumtrees Rd. This will fill a critical gap in our local training capacity as roof operations and ventilation are a crucial part of any fire suppression actions.

Carmine's Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning 92 Sand Pit Rd., Danbury, CT. 06810	\$300.00
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Lostocco Refuse Service, LLC	\$300.00
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P.O Box 4964, Danbury, CT. 06813

Robert Arconti, Arconti Concrete \$300.00
122 Beaver Brook Rd., Danbury, Ct. 06810

Ed Kowalkowski, Boston Garage \$300.00
86 Taylor St., Danbury Ct. 06810

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

On 22 April crews responded to a call for a 20 foot fall. This occurred in a construction site at the former Filenes store. The man was treated and removed by stokes basket from the basement to 1st floor exit. This incident required response from the building department and CONN-OSHA.

On 24 April crews responded to 53 Sandpit Rd., Avalon Valley Apartments. This was a fire which resulted from discarded cigarette(s). These were placed in a plastic container being used as an ash tray. The fire damaged siding, decking, exterior window trim and a folding chair of one dwelling unit. The fire was investigated by DFM Rao. No injuries were reported.

On 29 April strong winds brought us to an incident at 99 Middle River Rd. and an incident at 233 Franklin St. Ext. The Middle River Rd call was a 20' section of a dead ash tree that fell onto electrical lines. This resulted in a brush fire controlled by E25 and Tanker 14. The second call was a significant brush and ground cover fire which burned unchecked from multiple points of origin. This was due to the wires being compromised. This situation lasted for some time until CL&P confirmed power to be eliminated to downed lines. This was caused by the fallen tree near S. King St.. In total, approximately 30 FD personnel, career and volunteer, brought this incident to a successful conclusion.

Additional calls for the period have included Hazardous Materials calls for a chemical storage issue and a natural gas leak. Car fires, emergency medical calls and numerous calls for assistance are also reported.

Command and Staff Activities

4-26-10 Vol. council meeting
4-29-10 Western Ct. Prayer Breakfast
4-29-10 Chamber Leadership Danbury: Henry Abbott Tech/Danbury High School
4-29-10 HIPPA Laws
5-4-10 Hospice Breakfast
5-5-10 Danbury Hospital
5-6-10 Firefighter of the year Dinner
5-7-10 Citizens Hose Company Dinner
5-11-10 CCM Conference in Cromwell
5-11-10 Connecticut Career Chiefs
5-14-10 Community Safety Meeting F.C.I.
5-19-10 Vol. Task Force Meeting

5-20-10 20th Anniversary of DSABC Mentoring Breakfast
5-20-10 Public Works Day
5-20-10 Seminar-investigations

Emergency Medical/ Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez

The focus of this months training has been Anaphylactic Shock, or the human bodies exaggerated allergic reaction to an allergen which can be a true life threatening condition if not properly treated. The Danbury Fire Departments First Responder EMT/EMT-IVs are trained to quickly assess the patient, immediately treat life threatening conditions and determine whether the patient would benefit from the medications that the EMT/EMT-IV are allowed to administer under standing orders from medical control. The First Responder needs to needs to recognize the desired effects of the interventions that have been administered and at the same time to be prepared to treat the side effects associated with certain medications.

A CPR and First Aid class was provided to the City of Danbury Water Department on 11 May. This will be followed with classes to be given on June 8th and June 29th.

Meetings attended:

- DEMHS meeting on Haz-Mat Funding and Equipment
- Region Five Haz-Mat Team meeting at Torrington Fire Department
- Danbury Mentors Breakfast

Haz Mat

The second quarter Haz-Mat Thursday class has started; this class consists of a lecture on Risk –Based response, strategic use of our metering capabilities, hands on practical skill session and a table top drill. This four hour training class will focus on maintaining proficiency in metering and monitoring with the metering package that the department has received as a part of our involvement with the Regional Haz-mat Team from the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. That metering package includes the following meters:

Scott four- gas meter, APD 2000 Chemical weapon detector, Mini Rae volatile organic compound chemical detector, Drager Colorimetric tube and chip set, Geiger- Ludlum radiological detector, Ahura Ramen Spectroscopy meter, Ahura FTIR spectroscopy meter, Jerome mercury vapor meter, MSA biological weapons detector

Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Training

5 members completed the state Basic Telecommunicator certification course held in Berlin from May 10 to 18th. A good portion of the overtime costs associated with this class will be reimbursed by the state. We have applied for \$ 6356.88 of the “back fill (overtime) costs to be covered by OSET training funds. In June another 5 dispatcher candidates will be trained and the remaining 911 training money (\$1565.72) allocated for Danbury for FY 2009/2010 will be requested. The department also recently received a \$ 5100.00 reimbursement of tuition costs for Emergency Medical Dispatch recertification of department dispatchers/relief dispatchers.

Equipment

Recent failures to one or both of the modems that provide the 911 information link to the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system has been resolved. These modems were replaced by devices which will allow these links to be established on the city network instead of using leased telephone circuits. This change will not only reduce the reliance on an outside vendor to provide circuits but also the cost of leasing these lines. Cost savings will be approximately \$1200.00 a year.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

The 160 hour Firefighter 1/Haz Mat- WMD course is near completion. The CT Fire Academy Practical skills exam was held May 15. Fourteen (14) students passed all 6 skill stations and 6 students failed one station and are required to retake the entire skills test in the near future. The written certification exam is scheduled for May 27.

A special thanks to the Padanaram, Independent, Citizen's, Waterwitch, Germantown, King St., and Beaver Brook Volunteer Companies for providing apparatus and manpower for the practical skills evolutions during the class.

Fire Fighter II: Volunteer Firefighters Derek Roy (Padanaram) and Jason Sherwood (Miry brook) are currently enrolled in the Firefighter II class sponsored by the Ridgefield Fire Dept.

Anthony Rongetti (Germantown) is enrolled in the Instructor I class in Botsford.

NFIRS training: DFM Leach offered training in the use of the National Fire Incident Reporting System

2nd Quarter training starts the end of May and continues through June

Career Division

Aerial Operator Certification class: Fifteen students successfully passed the skills and written tests and are now State Certified Aerial Operators. One student will retake the written.

The Naugatuck Valley CC Spring Semester Fire Investigation class came to an end with a live burn at our fire school where the students conducted a Fire Investigation for their Final Exam.

Airport Fire Fighter: We are conducting annual refresher training for our ARFF qualified people at the Danbury Airport. Asst. Airport Administrator Mike Safranek is assisting with the airport familiarization training.

Fire School: The new exterior lights were installed and are now operational. FF Ray Guard provided the electrical expertise and was assisted by the Engine 24 crews. Our thanks go to Duke Hart of Public Works who assisted with a boom truck and operator to complete this mission. Eng 24 crews also completed a major clean up of the grounds and classroom trailer.

The school remains busy with Career and Volunteer units from Danbury as well as Firefighters from the surrounding towns, including Brookfield, Stony Hill, Brewster and Botsford.

Building materials bought through donations for the Roof Ventilation Training Prop were delivered and construction has begun.

Hydrant Testing: Annual Hydrant testing began May 1, and continues through October. The goal is to test as many as possible of 1,800 hydrants in Danbury.

Interns:

Tim Pfeiffer is an intern working with us. He is in the Fire Administration degree program at the University of New Haven. Tim is from New Fairfield and will complete his 150 hour affiliation in June. Tim is experiencing the daily operations of the Fire Dept. and is performing multiple tasks, concentrating on data entry for our new Pre Fire Plan Program.

A second intern is Nick Pambianchi of Ridgefield. He has started an internship and has been busy learning the ropes of a career fire position. He is a senior at Ridgefield High School.

Incidents: The Training Officer was called as Safety officer to a Structure Fire on Westville Ave Ext.

Meetings/ events for the T.O.:

- Wake for the father of retired Firefighter Karl Freundt
- CME at Danbury Hospital April 27
- Rotary Club Firefighter/Police Officer of the year Dinner May 6
- Citizen's Hose Annual Dinner May 7
- Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Seminar May 11 in Cromwell on Homeland Security updates and Incident planning
- Danbury Schools and Business Collaborative 20th Anniversary Breakfast May 20 at the Amber room. "Mentoring, yesterday, today and beyond"
- Public Works open house May 20
- Staff meeting with D group on May 18

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

The apparatus division had a number of issues presented this period. Most significantly, while truck -1 was in Rocky Hill undergoing repairs, Truck-2 decided to really challenge our resources by rupturing the left rear outrigger hydraulic line on a Saturday morning. We were unable to acquire the fittings on Saturday. This resulted in our being without an aerial device in the city until Monday. Our mutual aid partners were notified and were standing by to lend assistance should we have need of it. Luckily, there was no need to call.

The Duo-Tox sensor was replaced in E-26's meter and returned to service. Issues with the meters from Truck-1, E-22 and E-25 were resolved. The departments' 4 Gas meters are calibrated and in service. We rebuilt one of the four Hurst hydraulic hose reels on Squad-1. We hung a clock in the Chiefs office. The steering gear in E-24

was removed, rebuilt and reinstalled. This unit also required replacement of the left front spring hanger bolts.

Other repairs completed:

- replaced the on-board charger in Truck-1
- repaired the Rabbit Tool on Truck-2
- repaired the Turret Gun on Airport 20
- ordered and acquired hydrant testing supplies
- replaced the Officers side rear seat belt in Truck-2
- evaluated E-25's starting issue and will be scheduling for repair
- inspected and adjusted the brakes on Truck-1
- ordered a new winch cable for Squad-1
- replaced the left rear hydraulic line on Truck-2
- have scheduled Underwriters Laboratories to test both Aerials

Fire Marshal - James Johnson

This months Fire Prevention consisted of programs for different groups, including Putnam Towers and GE Capitol. FM Johnson and DFM Russell met with the Fifth Grade Class at Shelter Rock School for career day. Working with the U.N.I.T., there were 5 inspections for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic) this period. All situations have been resolved.

Education and conferences for the marshals included the following. DFM's Russell, Rao and Leach attended the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association (CFMA) Conference. Also completed were 68 hours of continuing education for annual Fire Marshal Certification. DFM Leach attended the Annual Juvenile Fire-setter Intervention Program in MA and leadership diversity training at the Ct. Fire Academy. DFM Rao participated in the Annual Arson class at the Fire Academy. All told, members of the Office attended 30 hours of meetings concerning future projects coming to Danbury.

Department Statistical Reports

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	90.5	Place of Assembly:	37
Issued in Fire Zones:	4	Educational:	1
Fire Investigations:	10	Business:	22
Fatal Fires:	0	Storage:	0
Liquor Inspections:	28	Health Care:	4
Blasting Permits:	2	Industrial:	1
Complaints	18**	Mercantile:	43
Plan Review (hrs)	90	Residential Board & Care:	0
Fire Prevention Prgs.	17	Hotel (units):	205
Orders of Abatement:	1	Apartments:	157
** Resolved or in the process		Rooming Houses:	1
of being resolved.		Day Care:	9
Some of these complaints		Misc. Inspections	42
Were thru and with the UNIT.		Special Structures:	2
		Office Duty (hrs):	186

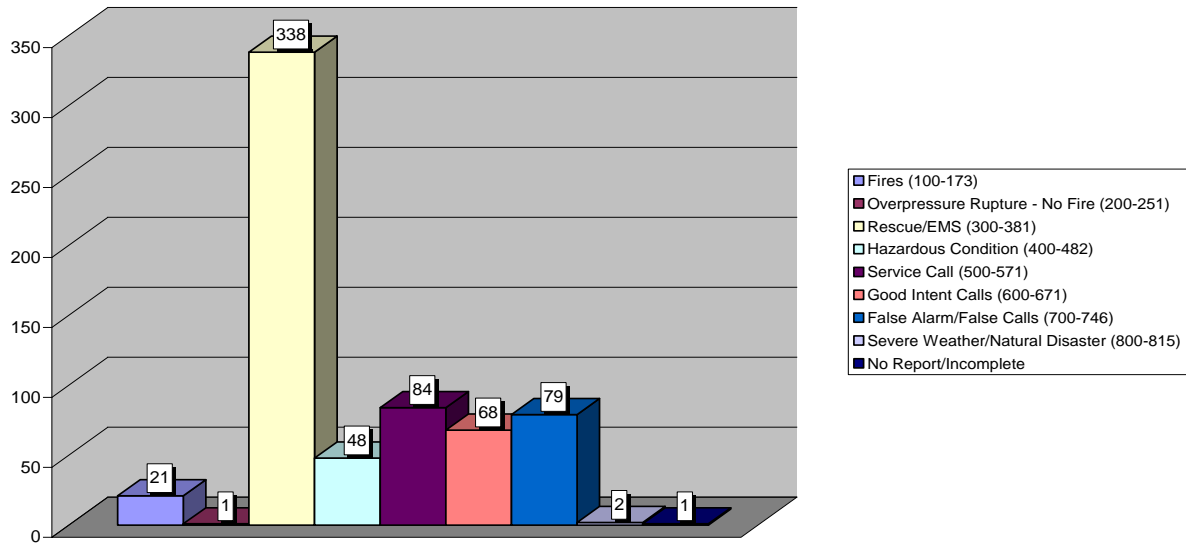
Burn Permits	2
Service Stations	6
Fuel Trucks	3

Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	21
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	1
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	338
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	48
Service Call (500-571)	84
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	68
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	79
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	2
Special Incident Type (900-911)	0
No Report/Incomplete	1
Total Fire Responses	642
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2684
Abandoned 911 Calls	287
Cellular 911 Calls	1348
911 Hang Up Calls	882
Admin Calls Received	938
Police Calls via 911	360
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	174
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	282
Daily Average	99.41
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	642
Total EMS Responses	751
Unknown Transport Status	0
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	284
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	333
No Patient (CAD 62)	134
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	3
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	30

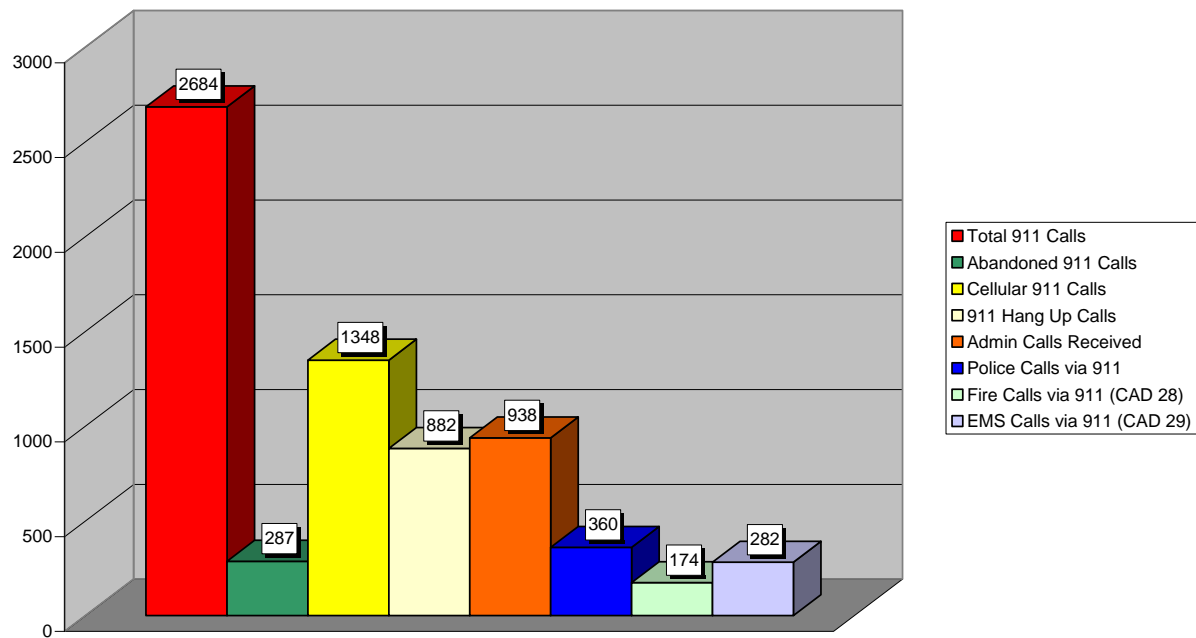
**** NOTE ****

Multiple 911 Calls received for Fire And
EMS
Incidents are attached to Fire Incident
Reports

Fire Response Breakdown April 21 to May 21, 2010



911 Center Activity April 21 to May 21, 2010



Dates of Importance

Fire Service Day- Headquarters 26 June 10AM-2PM